Use of vallams.

49 *MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have come to know the following use of vallams—

(i) vallams that are used for transport on hire;

(ii) vallams that are used for the transport of goods of the owners of the vallams who built or purchased the vallams for their commercial purposes; and

(b) if the answer to the above is in the affirmative, the number of vallams belonging to the item (ii) that have been brought under the commandeered vallams?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: (a) (i) & (ii) No statistics have been collected in the matter. A vallam falling under class (i) at one time may fall under class (ii) at another time.

(b) No information is available.

Complaints of Vallam owners.

50 *MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state whether complaints were made to the Additional District Magistrate on Special Duty on Transport against his police subordinates stating that those subordinates have been troubling the vallam owners in respect of vallams which were not in the register of commandeered vallams?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: No such complaints have been received.

MR. M. K. MOHAMED (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): May I know whether the Government have received any representation from the Navikathozhilali Sangam about this matter?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: No.

Seizure and detention of vallams.

51 *MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the number of seizure and detention of vallams in the canals and lakes of Shertalai and in the canals and lakes in and near Alleppey made for shortage of food-grains loaded in the vallams;

(b) the system now going on in loading and unloading food-grains in vallams; and

(c) whether a police constable is deputed for the supervision of the vallams in which food-grains were loaded for transport?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: (a) As the period for which the information is required is not specified it is not possible to give a definite answer.

(b) Foodgrain bags are weighed and loaded in vallams in the presence of the boatman and the escorting constable. Unloading is also done likewise.

(c) Police constables escort vallams carrying Government food-grains.

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